CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 31 JULY 1993 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS RELEASED BY THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY ON 22 JULY 1993*

I have the honour to forward to you the English language text of the Joint Declaration on Relations Between the United States of America and the Republic of Belarus, released by the White House Office of the Press Secretary on 22 July 1993.

Could you please take the appropriate steps to register this document as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament, and to have it distributed to all member delegations and non-member States participating in the work of the Conference. It is my understanding that Ambassador Mardovitch, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Belarus, would plan to submit to you the Russian language version of this document.

(Signed): Stephen J. Ledogar
Ambassador and United States
Representative to the
Conference on Disarmament

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* The official Russian text of the above-mentioned Joint Declaration is to be found in CD/1216.

07/23/93

U.S., BELARUS ISSUE JOINT DECLARATION
(Text: Joint Declaration) (1150)

Washington -- Following is the text of the Joint Declaration on Relations Between the United States of America and the Republic of Belarus released by the White House Office of the Press Secretary July 22:

(Begin text)

At their meeting at the White House, President of the United States Bill Clinton and Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Stanislav Shushkevich agreed on the need to accelerate the building of close and mutually beneficial relations on all levels between the United States of America and the Republic of Belarus. Chairman Shushkevich was the first leader of any of the new independent states of the former Soviet Union to visit Washington for an official meeting with President Clinton. The meeting demonstrated the importance that the United States and the Republic of Belarus attach to broadening and deepening their relationship.

By virtue of its early ratification of the START I Treaty and accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear state, the Republic of Belarus has demonstrated to the world its determination to chart a responsible and stable course. This is a significant contribution to strengthening global security and maintaining peace. The deposit of its instrument of accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty by the Republic of Belarus during Chairman Shushkevich's visit to the United States demonstrated its firm intent to build a peaceful future. In support of these far-sighted steps, the United States and the Republic of Belarus signed agreements during Chairman Shushkevich's visit under which the United States will provide assistance to the Republic of Belarus. The agreements cover assistance relating to export control, conversion and environmental restoration of military bases, especially strategic rocket forces bases, and conversion of defense facilities to civilian use.

The United States and the Republic of Belarus stressed their determination to work actively to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and associated technologies. The United States applauded the removal last year of all tactical nuclear weapons from the territory of the Republic of Belarus. The Republic of Belarus reaffirmed its commitment to complete the removal of all remaining nuclear weapons under the provisions of

the START I Treaty and the Lisbon Protocol. The United States expresses Its strong support for the announced intention of the Republic of Belarus to achieve a permanent non-nuclear status as well as for its intention to pursue a foreign policy of neutrality.

The United States recognizes that the Republic of Belarus faces new challenges in ensuring its national security and is ready to work closely with Belarus to assist it in finding ways to meet these challenges. The United States and the Republic of Belarus further expressed their desire to facilitate contact between appropriate government officials with a view to broadening defense cooperation and expanding their dialogue on security issues of mutual interest.

The United States and the Republic of Belarus pledged to cooperate in building a durable democratic peace across Europe. International security can no longer be achieved through the efforts of individual states by acquiring ever increasing amounts of weaponry. Rather, security must be based on reduced levels of armaments among all nations, and on a multilateral commitment to uphold shared values, especially democracy, the inviolability of borders, territorial integrity, and peaceful resolution of disputes. The United States and the Republic of Belarus agreed that working together in multilateral institutions like CSCE and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council is an important means of promoting these goals and values.

The Republic of Belarus and the United States reaffirm their commitment to comply fully with the obligations of the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe. The United States stands ready to provide technical assistance, advice, and expertise to assist the Republic of Belarus as it continues to meet these obligations. President Clinton and Chairman Shushkevich agreed that the two governments should continue to work together -- and with other concerned governments -- to explore ways to minimize the cost of meeting these commitments.

President Clinton and Chairman Shushkevich agreed that the independence of the Republic of Belarus and its commitment to democracy and market economic reform could make an important contribution to stability in a region of Europe that has known great tragedy and upheaval. The United States and the Republic of Belarus underscored their intention to cooperate actively to achieve this goal. The President and the Chairman agreed to protect and promote the values that bind together the democratic community of nations, including free and fair elections, freedom of emigration, the rule of law, respect for human rights, including free speech, free press, and respect for the rights of individuals belonging to minorities. The United States strongly supported the commitment of the Republic of Belarus to develop in full accordance with these principles and its efforts to build a just and stable society where the fundamental freedoms of all peoples are guaranteed.

The United States and the Republic of Belarus expressed their determination to advance the values of economic freedom, without which democracy cannot succeed and prosperity cannot be attained. The Republic of Belarus reaffirmed its determination to build a market economy through appropriate macroeconomic stabilization policies and structural reforms to promote market development, economic recovery and growth, and to create conditions which will permit foreign investment to assist in the modernization and restructuring of its economy. The Republic of Belarus will also seek to create conditions supportive of foreign investment, which will be an important component in the restructuring of the economy. The United States will assist the Republic of Belarus to promote economic stabilization, privatization, restructuring, free trade and foreign investment. Both sides recognize the importance of improved market access to their firms, and the need to ensure economic progress and deepen economic cooperation.

President Clinton and Chairman Shushkevich agreed to work together to remove all unnecessary barriers to bilateral trade and investment and to finalize preparations for signing the treaty for mutual protection of investments. They also agreed on the advisability of concluding an agreement on avoidance of double taxation and prevention of evasion of income and property taxation.

The United States reaffirmed its intention to continue providing assistance to the Republic of Belarus in the areas of agriculture, food, medicine, fiscal and monetary policy, and other areas to promote reform in Belarus. The United States expressed its intention to assist the government of the Republic of Belarus in combating the devastating effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

The United States and the Republic of Belarus are also ready to expand their relations in such areas as science, energy, culture, arts, education, law, tourism, and student exchanges.

By agreeing to work cooperatively to advance common political, economic, and security interests, the United States and the Republic of Belarus have laid the foundation for a strong and diversified relationship.

(End text)